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CAERLEON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1949.

- by -

EVELYN D. OWEN,
M.B., B.S., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

- including -

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

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CAERLEON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year Ended 31st December, 1949.

Caerleon.

To the Chairman and Members of the Caerleon Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for your District. It is drawn up according to the directions of the Ministry of Health and includes the report of the Sanitary Officer.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area. (in acres)	3405.
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid 1949.	4760.
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1949) according to Rate Books..	1154.
Rateable Value 1/4/49.	£20,266.
Sum represented by 1d rate.	£79.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

There is still a large rural element in this Urban District. In the industrial zone, two additional small factories were established during the year; one concerned with boat-building and the other producing nuts and bolts.

VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Live Births.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate,	40	49	89
Illegitimate,	2	2	4
Stillbirths.	4	0	4

Live Birth Rate for year, per 1,000 population 19.7
Live Birth Rate for England and Wales for 1949, per 1,000 population 16.7
Live Birth Rate for Monmouthshire for 1949, per 1,000 population 18.2
Stillbirth Rate for year, per 1,000 population ..... .84
Stillbirth Rate for England and Wales for 1949 per 1,000 population ..... .39
Stillbirth Rate for Monmouthshire for 1949 per 1,000 population ..... .58

The number of deaths in the area during 1949 was as follows:-

Male.	Female.	Total.
22	16	38

Death Rate per 1,000 population..... 8
Death Rate for England and Wales, 1949..... 11.7
Death Rate for Monmouthshire, 1949..... 12.1

The causes of death were:-

	Male.	Female.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.....	2	0
Influenza.....	1	0
Cancer.....	2	5
Diseases of circulatory system.....	3	2
Cardiac Disease.....	8	6
Diarrhoea under 2 years.....	1	0
Pneumonia.....	0	1
Disease of Digestive System.....	3	1
Suicide.....	0	1
Accidents.....	1	0
Other Causes.....	1	0
	22	16

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There were no maternal deaths.

INFANT MORTALITY.

2 Infants died under the age of one year.
Death Rate of infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 Live Births..... 21.5
Death Rate of infants under 1 year of age, for England and Wales, per 1,000 live births..... 32
Death rate of infants under 1 year of age, for Monmouthshire, per 1,000 live births..... 42.7

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Public Health Officers of the Authority:
The staff consisted of:-

(a) One part-time Medical Officer of Health, who is also Medical Officer for No.8 Health Area of Monmouthshire County Council.
(b) Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, Mr.D.J.Phillips, M.E., M.R.S.I.,

The duties of the Medical Officer of Health comprised presentation of monthly reports to the Public Health Committee of the Council and attendance at Council Meetings; furnishing periodical reports to the County Medical Officer and the Ministry of Health; and advising on matters of Public Health generally.

The duties of the Sanitary Officer comprised housing estate maintenance, Inspector of Foods and Shops, and duties as laid down in the Sanitary Order, 1926.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946.

Local Health Services under Part III are provided by the Monmouthshire County Council.

(a) Clinics.

A Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic is held fortnightly in a local Church Schoolroom. Uncertain and irregular voluntary help made it necessary to call for the services of a second health visitor from a neighbouring district to assist the health visitor for this area at the clinic. The Ante-Natal Clinic is held fortnightly at Newport.

(b) Domiciliary Midwifery and Home Nursing.

A midwife, a district nurse and a district nurse-midwife have rendered good service during the year. Their work extends into adjoining areas.

(c) Ambulance Service.

The headquarters of the County Ambulance Service are situated in the area.

(d) Domestic Help Service.

This is administered as part of the No. 8 Area of the Health Services of the Monmouthshire County Council. Part-time domestic helps have rendered good service to the district wherever home conditions have given rise to the need for their assistance.

(e) Vaccination and Immunisation.

These were carried out by the general practitioners as well as at the Clinic. 17 children were vaccinated and 48 were immunised; all but two of the latter being under five years of age.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Section 47. Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention. No action was taken under this section.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Public Cleaning.

Three days each week are allocated for the work of refuse collection in the area. The vehicle is a "S & D" Freighter. A "Karrier" vehicle utilised for general work is available as reserve in case of breakdown. Transport is therefore satisfactory.

Smoke Abatement.

There is no cause for complaint.

Schools.

The sanitary arrangements and water service to the local Primary Schools and the Monmouthshire Traning College, have proved satisfactory.

Factories.

There are 10 mechanical operated factories and 6 non-mechanical factories in the area, administered under the Factories Act, 1937.

Rivers and Streams.

The Rivers Usk and Avon Llwydd are highly polluted at the higher levels prior to reaching the Urban Area.

Water Service.

The main water service has proved satisfactory except at an ex-Army Camp where service pipes are badly corroded. Some few houses and farms are dependent on spring or well water which in many cases is unsatisfactory.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The sewerage system in Caerleon has proved satisfactory; the additional branch on the bottom of Lodge Road with a diversion to Church Street lower level sewer has proved effective in preventing flooding where such had previously occurred. The whole of the purification bed of the Coldra Sewage Plant, was removed, and replaced with graded hard stone. The 'Ultra Pontem' scheme for the provision of drainage and sewers for this village and the west side of the Christchurch area is under consideration, and the Engineers have been asked to proceed with a scheme for approval by the Ministries.

Shops.

The Monmouthshire County Council have delegated their powers, under the Shops Acts, to this Council.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

The lido on Bullmoor Road is well maintained and kept in efficient order during the summer Bathing Season. A sample of water was taken from the Pool for analysis and proved satisfactory. This was a record year for the Bathing Pool owing to the exceptionally fine weather experienced during the Bathing Season.

Rodent Control.

Steps are continually taken to prevent any infestation of rats in the district including the carrying out of the instructions for pre-baiting and poison baiting of rodents as laid down by the Regulations of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. A rodent operator was appointed part-time but urgent action is taken to prevent major infestations.

Cemetery.

The Council has approved of a scheme to provide an access road near the Soar Brook on the Usk Road, and is awaiting approval of the Welsh Board of Health.

Milk Supply.

In the Autumn, the control and administration of farm buildings became the duty of the Ministry of Agriculture; the local authorities were only then concerned with the taking of samples of milk for bacteriological analysis and the registration of retailers of raw and graded milk.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

(1) Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year.

1.	(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).	120.
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.	120.
2.	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	10.
3.	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under 2 found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	10.

(2) Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notice.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority, or its' officers.	48.

(3) Action under Statutory Powers.

1.	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
	(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.	6.
	(b) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice.	6.
	(c) Number of houses condemned and in occupation.	13.
	(d) Number of houses that could probably be condemned and action taken, under the Housing Acts 1936 and 1940.	50.
2.	Proceedings under Public Health Acts.	
	(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	4.

(b) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice. 4.

3. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. 0.

(b) Number of dwelling houses which were demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. 0.

4. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(a) Number of separate tenements or under ground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made. 0.

(b) Number of separate tenements or under ground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit. 0.

The housing problem in this area is one of quality rather than quantity. Many of the houses are very old and in such a state of disrepair that it is difficult to make them satisfactorily habitable at a reasonable cost.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & BAKEHOUSES.

Three inspections of Registered Factories, workshops and Bakehouses were made during the year.

Sanitary defects found.....1.
Defects remedied.....1.
Insufficient sanitary accommodation.....1.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1949.

Age Period.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Resp.		Non.Resp.		Resp.		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20.	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
25.	3	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
35.	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
45.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55, and up.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS:-	3	3	-	-	2	-	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS (Continued).

Death Rate per 1,000. population..... .42
Death Rate per 1,000. population for England and Wales..... .45

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Food Poisoning.

No food poisoning outbreaks occurred during the year.

Measles.

An epidemic of Measles occurred early in the year; in most cases it was not a severe illness.

Other infectious diseases were few.
There was no case of diphtheria or acute Poliomyelitis.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES. (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING 1949.

Disease.	Total cases notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Small Pox.	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever.	12	8	-
Diphtheria.	-	-	-
Enteric Fever including Paratyphoid.	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	12	(already in hospital)	-
Pneumonia.	2	-	-
Measles.	41	-	-
Dysentery.	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.	20	-	-
Erysipelas.	1	-	-

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Periodic inspections of foodstuffs have been made during the year.

UNSOUND FOODSTUFFS. The following have been surrendered and destroyed:-
Tinned food.....43-lbs. Oranges....3 boxes. Flour.....53-lbs.
Filling Powder.....74-lbs. Custard Powder.....52-lbs.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
EVELYN D.OWEN.
Medical Officer of Health.